



# The Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education

## "Securing democracy through education"

Brussels Declaration

11-12 April 2016



**T**he 25th session of the Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education was held in Brussels on 11 and 12 April 2016. It was organised in co-operation with the Belgian authorities and the Steering Committee for Educational Policy and Practice (CDPPE).

Forty-six states parties to the European Cultural Convention attended the conference. Canada and Japan acted as observers, alongside the European Union, UNESCO, OECD and several international non-governmental organisations.

The ministers welcomed the new Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture, developed by the Council of Europe, and pledged to increase the effectiveness of Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE) at all levels of education and training for everyone.



## THE MAIN POINTS OF THE BRUSSELS MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

### Main goal

Strengthen, in and through education, the culture of democracy for new generations in Europe.

### Strategic objectives

Make the preparation for lifelong active democratic citizenship for all learners in education and training a hallmark of the quality of European education systems.

Provide all learners in education and training with the necessary competences (values, attitudes, skills, knowledge and critical understanding) for a culture of democracy.

### Commitments

Enhance democracy in the life and culture of schools and universities.

Launch the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture developed by the Council of Europe.

Increase the effectiveness of Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE) at all levels of education and training for everyone.

### Support for the work of the Council of Europe

Develop digital citizenship education in line with the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture.

Support the development of a long-term strategy for a more coherent and comprehensive approach to Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE) at the European level.



Measure progress towards common long-term objectives on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE), in line with global efforts to reach Target 4.7 of Sustainable Development Goals 4 (SDG 4) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda (Education 2030).

Guide higher education policies, and in particular teacher education policies, towards contributing to efficient and innovative practices for fostering democratic culture and student participation.

Examine policy measures to prevent violent extremism and radicalisation.

### Proposals for the Steering Committee for Educational Policy and Practice (CDPPE)

Ensure that the strategic objectives of the 25th session are reflected in the future programmes of activities of the Council of Europe (2018-2021).

Assist member states in implementing the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture in their national education systems.

Draw up a European Portfolio of Democratic Competences.

Renew the network of national co-ordinators for Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE).

Support an improved use of Existing instruments, tools and resources developed over the past decade by Council of Europe expert bodies in Education and in other relevant sectors such as Youth.

Consider ways of increasing the impact of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE).

Establish policy guidelines to support national authorities in developing digital citizenship education.

Contribute, from a European perspective, to the development of global citizenship education and undertake a regional co-ordination role.

### WEBSITE

[www.coe.int/en/web/education-minister-conference](http://www.coe.int/en/web/education-minister-conference)